

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1890

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004

UTILIZATION OF FUNDS MEANT FOR ECO-DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large amount has been spent on eco-development scheme on Gir Range in Gujarat under National Park and Sanctuary Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details of the last three years together with utilization of funds;
- (c) whether a World Bank Team visited Sasan (Gir Forest) to make an assessment of utilization of its aid; and
- (d) if so, the details of observations of the World Bank in this regard and Government's reaction thereupon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

a) The externally aided India Eco-development Project, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests was implemented at the Gir Sanctuary and National Park with a total cost of Rs. 33.79 Crores during 1997-98 to 2004-05 till June, 2004.

b) Details of funds utilized during the last three years are given as under:

Component Expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakhs)

2001-02 2002-03 2003-04 Total

Improved PA Management	113.93	51.20	42.25	207.38
Village Eco-development	236.55	424.34	621.41	1282.30
Environment Education & Awareness	13.51	6.42	3.67	23.60
Impact Monitoring & Research	43.15	30.04	1.67	77.86

Total	407.14	512.00	669.00	1591.14
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c) The World Bank Supervision Mission visited the Gir National Park during June 18-21, 2004 to supervise the progress of India Eco-development Project Gir National Park.

d) The World Bank Supervision Mission has circulated its Aide Memoire dated July 15, 2004, with the following salient observations of World Bank are-" PA management has made good use of project funding and related processes to strengthen protected area management, village eco-development, implementation of conservation education programs, visitor management, adaptive research for better understanding of issues for informed decision making and participatory impact monitoring Forest Department is to be commended for continuous updating of good quality documentation materials for each visit of the missions including status report and special notes on topical subjects. Most of the actions agreed with the earlier mission have been accomplished". The Government of India concurs with these observations.